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NRHP- 5-30-02

NPS Form 10-900  
(Rev. 10-90)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Morven  
other names/site number VDHR FILE No.: 30-864

2. Location

street & number 3918 Leeds Manor Road not for publication N/A  
city or town Markham vicinity X  
state Virginia code VA county Fauquier code 061 zip code 22643

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this x nomination        request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property x meets        does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant        nationally        statewide x locally. (        See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 4/5/02  
Signature of certifying official Date  
Director, Virginia Department of Historic Resources  
State or Federal agency and bureau  
In my opinion, the property        meets        does not meet the National Register criteria. (        See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

               
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
        
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:  
       entered in the National Register         
       See continuation sheet.  
       determined eligible for the         
       National Register         
       See continuation sheet.  
       determined not eligible for the         
       National Register         
       removed from the National Register         
       other (explain):       

               
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

Property Name, County  
Morven, Fauquier County, Virginia

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**5. Classification**

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Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

☒ private  
☐ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

☒ building(s)  
☐ district  
☐ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Non-contributing
<u>  3  </u>	<u>  1  </u> buildings
<u>  -  </u>	<u>  -  </u> sites
<u>  -  </u>	<u>  2  </u> structures
<u>  -  </u>	<u>  -  </u> objects
<u>  3  </u>	<u>  3  </u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register   0  

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)           N/A          

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:	Sub:
<u>      DOMESTIC      </u>	<u>      Single Dwelling      </u>
<u>      DOMESTIC      </u>	<u>      Secondary Structure - Kitchen      </u>
<u>      DOMESTIC      </u>	<u>      Secondary Structure - Smokehouse      </u>
<u>  AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE  </u>	<u>      Agricultural Field      </u>

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:	Sub:
<u>      DOMESTIC      </u>	<u>      Single Dwelling      </u>
<u>      DOMESTIC      </u>	<u>      Single Dwelling (Kitchen)      </u>
<u>      DOMESTIC      </u>	<u>      Secondary Structure      </u>
<u>  AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE  </u>	<u>      Agricultural Field      </u>

Property Name, County  
Morven, Fauquier County, Virginia

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

EARLY REPUBLIC - FEDERAL

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE; CINDER BLOCK

roof SLATE; METAL-Tin

walls STONE = Sandstone, Granite, Slate; Stucco;

WOOD = Weatherboard, Board-and-batten

other

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or a grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Property Name, County  
Morven, Fauquier County, Virginia

Period of Significance 1820-1844

Significant Dates 1820  
1835  
1844

Significant Persons (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See Continuation Sheets.

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS) preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested. previously listed in the National Register previously determined eligible by the National Register designated a National Historic Landmark recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary Location of Additional Data x State Historic Preservation Office x Other State agency x Federal agency x Local government x University x Other Name of repository: (see Bibliography Section 9)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 50

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	17 759770	4306880	B	17 759900	4306980
C	18 239360	4306980	D	18 239580	4306820

X See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

Property Name, County  
**Morven, Fauquier County, Virginia**

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Cheryl H. Shepherd, Architectural Historian  
organization Millennium Preservation Services date 05 January 2001  
street & number (74 Winchester Street) P. O. Box 312 telephone (540) 349-0118  
city or town Warrenton state VA zip code 20188-0312

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name SUZANNE A. MARTIN, OWNER  
street & number MORVEN, 3918 LEEDS MANOR ROAD telephone 540-364-2175  
city or town MARKHAM state VA zip code 22643

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).  
Estimated burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 16.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 1

**Morven  
Fauquier County, Virginia**

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**Narrative Description**

The 50-acre Morven property is located in northwestern Fauquier County, approximately twenty-two miles from the Fauquier County Courthouse, three miles north of Hume and two miles south of the Village of Markham. It lies in the rolling foothills of Red Oak Mountain to the east and Rattlesnake and Buck Mountains on the west. Route 688-Leeds Manor Road defines the eastern boundary, with Thumb Run just beyond the western border. The historically agricultural parcel is surrounded by open farmland, including a small orchard and tree farm to the south. Occasional farmhouses and several new homes can be seen along the Manor Road in this largely agrarian Piedmont region. The Morven dwelling house stands on a windy hillside overlooking Leeds Manor Road. The former Ambler family stone schoolhouse, called The Abbey after its teacher Mr. Abbot, still stands below the hill on the east side of the road, but it is no longer included in Morven's decreased acreage.<sup>1</sup> There are six resources on the Morven farm including the 1820-1954 dwelling, a circa 1820 stone summer kitchen, stone meat/smokehouse, one non-contributing horse barn and two non-contributing concrete silo structures.

Built in the Federal style, Morven's dwelling house developed in a most unique plan, not only for its location in Fauquier County, but apparently in the State. Four one-to-two story, three-bay, gable-roofed houses dating from the late eighteenth to mid-nineteenth centuries were sequentially built in log, frame and stone at right angles of each other, thus creating a cross plan and leaving an open courtyard in the middle. The first house in the cross plan was a log cabin that may have been raised to two stories with two exterior-end stone chimneys, probably built in the late eighteenth century for a tenant as Morven is within Lord Fairfax's Manor of Leeds. Circa 1820, a one-story, three-bay, frame house with a gable roof and atypical central interior chimney was built to its southeast corner, separated by about three-and-one-half feet. It has a saddlebag plan with a room to each side of the chimney. The next house containing a rectangular entrance hall and deep parlor on the first floor with a dining room in the English basement was constructed of stone at the frame's northeast corner between 1834-1838 in the late Federal style. This building's one-story, three-bay, east front gable end faces the road, and a stone exterior-end chimney rises above the west gable end. The last house in the cross plan appeared by 1844 at the right northwest corner of the gable-fronting dwelling. This one-story, three-bay, stone masonry north wing has a gable roof and central interior chimney. It is somewhat taller than the frame house at the south end and contains two bedrooms with a north-to-south passage running along the east front wall. Shortly after all of the buildings were built probably, the exterior walls were stuccoed, and a metal canopy was placed over the central courtyard.<sup>2</sup>

A two-story, three-bay kitchen, dining room and bedroom wing designed by architect Washington Reed was built by 1954.<sup>3</sup> Although compatible in materials, scale and overall design to the extant buildings, it adjoins to the west gable end of the circa 1835 parlor wing resulting in the infill of the interior courtyard and the demolition of the late eighteenth-century cabin. The south frame house was extended three-and-one-half feet to the north to attach to this addition, which is slightly taller than the gable-fronting parlor wing, and likewise projects beyond the north and south houses, but to the west rear. A stone terrace further extends the plan to the west, and in conjunction with the building, probably articulates the footprint of the former location of the cabin.<sup>4</sup> Even with Reed's alteration, the impression of four separate buildings in a cross plan remains most evident, and the overall effect of the gable-roofed house remains quite an extraordinarily developed cross plan for a farm house in Fauquier County. Thus, Morven retains a good historic integrity in location, setting, design, workmanship, materials, feeling and association.

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**Morven  
Fauquier County, Virginia**

**Dwelling House Landscape:** The Morven dwelling house and outbuildings are approached by a dirt driveway which begins to the north of the residence, winds up the hill in an S-curve toward the south front dooryard and continues on through the farm for the no longer extant Ambler-period agricultural buildings. The prominent position of the house on the hillside allowed owners the ability to overlook farm operations in the surrounding lower fields. The summer kitchen stands about twenty feet from the southwest corner of the dwelling house. The meat/smokehouse is about forty feet west of the kitchen. The front and rear elevations of the kitchen and dwelling house are planted with shaped boxwood. Several old black walnut trees shade the spacious front and rear dooryard. Behind the house, the view to the mountains is enhanced by a pond framed with weeping willows in the lower field.

**Morven Dwelling House, contributing building, 1820-1844, 1954:** Morven's dwelling is uniquely interesting for demonstrating the transition from early nineteenth-century Federal-style architecture influenced by the vernacular and further defined with greater embellishment in the later Federal-style houses or wings. The front east elevation is one story with ten bays. The south wing is a one-story, four-bay, stuccoed frame on a stone foundation with a new standing-seam metal gable roof and stuccoed central interior chimney. Two nine-over-nine double-hung sash wood windows with louvered shutters flank the double-leaf raised panel door with a four-light rectangular transom. A one-bay pedimented porch with Doric columns and a plain frieze is a later addition, circa 1870. A crude pipe railing is on the north side of the five flagstone steps and floor. This south wing was extended about three-and-one-half feet to the north by Washington Reed in 1954 to connect to the parlor wing and his new two-story, three-bay rear wing. A tall doorway is cut into this portion with a high single-pane transom above a twelve-light, flat-paneled door. This awkward opening occurred from the need to lower the porch on the south side of the parlor wing for handicapped access for the previous owner.

The one-story, three-bay, projecting gable parlor wing of stuccoed stone with an English basement, standing-seam metal gable roof and stuccoed exterior-end chimney is the central focus of the house. The eaves have returns, and the cornice has a molding of five split fillets. The cornice is further elaborated with rectangular modillions barely thicker than a shingle, a vernacular touch. Seven wooden steps rise to a one-story pedimented porch supported by Doric columns, circa 1870. Its tympanum is wood. The cyma recta cornice molding is plainer, but the frieze is dentiled with four-inch high, half-inch thick pickets basically, also an interesting vernacular detail. The porch railing is plain with straight balusters. The central double-leaf, raised-panel door is recessed in the stone wall and has raised-panel jambs and a Federal-style elliptical transom. The elliptical architrave has an elaborately-carved geometric molding and keystone. The tall flanking wood windows have nine-over-six double-hung sash with wood sills. A single outer louvered shutter hangs on each window. The Doric pilasters of the added porch caused the removal of the inner shutters. A circa 1870 south side porch extends awkwardly a bay to the south on this central wing. It runs along the south elevation three bays deep. Old Acres neighbor William Stribling believes that William L. Sutton of Marshall may have designed and built this circa 1835 central wing as this gable-fronting block is similar to this period of additions that the builder reportedly made to Mountain View and Hartland in Markham.<sup>5</sup>

The east front elevation of the north wing also consists of a three-bay-wide single story of stuccoed stone with a standing-seam metal gable roof and stuccoed central interior chimney. The wood windows are six-over-six double-hung sash with wood sills and louvered shutters. A concrete and two wooden steps lead up to the one-bay pedimented porch, circa 1930 as the floor sits on cinder block piers, and this feature is not present in turn of the

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century photographs. Its roof awkwardly cuts into the cornice of the wing. The recessed flat-paneled door has flat-paneled jambs and a four-light rectangular transom. The sunken fillet architrave has unusually gauged square corner blocks with two guttae.

North Side Elevation: The north facade of the parlor wing is two bays wide with a nine-light raised-panel door at the northeast opening out to a one-bay balcony with an iron railing on concrete piers. A nine-over-six double-hung sash wood window with louvered shutters is on the northwest. The north projecting bedroom wing's north gable end has an elliptical vent in the gable and a six-over-six double-hung sash wood window with louvered shutters. The west wing's north elevation has a single nine-over-six double-hung sash wood window.

The south side elevation had a total of six bays before an inappropriate one-story, three-bay enclosed porch with a hipped roof was recently demolished (see before photograph) at the southwest corner of the 1954 wing. It now has five bays counting the six-over-six double-hung sash wood window and nine-light paneled door on the west wing, a four-light paneled door on the gable end of the frame wing, a nine-over-six double-hung sash wood window at the southwest end of the front stone parlor wing and the recessed raised-panel door with paneled jambs at the southeast. The latter wood door leads from the front entry hall out onto the three-bay full-length porch with straight balusters and Doric columns.

The West Rear Elevation is nine bays wide. The two-bay north wing has six-over-six double-hung sash wood windows with wood sills and louvered shutters. The central two-story, projecting, circa 1954 wing has a central twelve-light, flat-paneled door flanked by two tripartite wood windows comprised of a middle six-over-nine with four-over-six side windows. Three eight-over-eight double-hung sash wood windows are at the second story. This odd window pattern was not what Mr. Reed drew on his 14 July 1950 elevation which shows three six-over-six windows above and paired six-over-nine windows below. Yet, the openings do not appear re-worked. The pedimented gable has a stuccoed tympanum with fanlight. The south one-story, four-bay, frame wing has a six-over-six double-hung sash window in the three and one-half foot extension to the north. A very narrow four-over-four double-hung sash wood window is centered between the nine-over-nine double-hung sash windows on the original portion. The window frames on this oldest wing have mortise and tenon joints. (All of the wood windows on the circa 1820, 1835 and 1844 wings appear old and original with later tape or clock-spring balances inserted most probably during Reed's alteration.)

Interior: The cellar may be entered from the exterior through a board-and-batten door under the south side porch in the front parlor wing. A small entry with a brick floor shows the ghost of the earlier stair up to the parlor on the east wall. A small cold room is opposite the south entrance. A large room thought to be an early dining room is directly under the parlor to the west. There is no large cooking hearth in this room, but the interior chimney on the west wall does have a small stone fireplace. The mantelpiece has a heavy molded cornice, plain frieze and beaded pilasters. It may not be original to the location as there is no plaster evidence on the sides, while the stone chimney and walls are plastered. The moldings were originally applied with cut nails. The floor is cement, likely poured when the circa 1954 expansion occurred. The cellar wall further to the west in the 1954 addition is cinder block. Stairs here lead up to the pine-paneled kitchen.



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The principal floor of the south frame wing has two rooms accessed from outside through the central double-leaf wood door and small entry closet. A framed doorway to both the south and north of this entry space lead into the south and north chambers. The smaller south chamber has narrow-width replacement pine floor, a plain baseboard, plastered walls and a drywall ceiling. A nine-over-nine double-hung sash wood window with tape balances is centered on both the east and west walls. The mantelpiece on the north wall is a simple Federal-style with raised rectangular panel pilasters supporting the wide, deep shelf. The fireplace surround is sandstone like the hearth. There is no ornamentation in the ample frieze. A circa 1954, four-light, flat-paneled door on the south wall opens out to the summer kitchen. The slightly larger north chamber also has a replacement floor with narrow pine boards, a baseboard, plastered walls and a later drywall ceiling. A nine-over-nine double-hung sash wood window with tape balances is centered on the east and west walls. The mantelpiece on the south wall is identical to the one in the south chamber except that the fireplace has a stuccoed surround and a sandstone hearth (recently revealed beneath cement). A door in the northeast corner leads out to the north-to-south hall of the Washington Reed addition.<sup>6</sup>

The circa 1954 addition stands in the former open courtyard space. A north-to-south hall runs along the east front wall with doors opening to the west side into the various rooms. A short stairway entered from the south turns to the parlor wing door at the northeast. A small bathroom is opposite the southeast door in the three-and-one-half-foot wide extension of the frame wing. It has a six-over-six double-hung sash wood window on the west wall which looked out into the enclosed porch/laundry room, recently demolished. A stained pine-paneled kitchen is north of the bathroom. It has a stairway to the second floor that begins immediately at the north of the doorway from the east hall. A large dining room with tripartite windows on the west wall is north of the kitchen. The walls and ceiling of this addition are drywall; the floor has two-inch-wide pine boards.

The relatively small front entry hall of the circa 1835 parlor wing has four doors and two tall recessed nine-over-six double-hung sash wood windows with cord-and-weight systems and raised-panel surrounds. A horizontal raised panel is below the windows which flank the double-leaf, raised-panel main entrance door with a heavily molded elliptical transom with keystone and fluted pilasters on the east front wall. Except for this main entrance, all the doors and windows have fluted architraves with roundel corner blocks in the Federal style. The north side door does not appear to be original as it has a nine-light door with two vertical raised panels, while the south side retains its heavy six-raised-panel door. All doors have brass box locks from Young and Co. The northwest and northeast corners of the entry hall have vertical molding rising from the molded baseboard. The walls are plastered, but the ceiling is again a drywall repair. The two-inch-wide pine floor boards are not original, and there is evidence of an earlier cellar stair at the front southeast corner in non-matching boards. The original floor boards may have been replaced due to water penetration caused during the Civil War as described by Lucy Johnston Ambler in her diary. On 29 April 1863 she wrote:

We had another rainy day yesterday so that we are thrown back again in planting or rather plowing for corn . . . The Yankeys seem to have left this part of the County and it is thought they are now on the way to Richmond. We cannot get any supplies of any kind either groceries or clothing . . . Our parlor is a one story house so that it has nothing between it and the Roof but a ceiling. The Roof wants shingling so much that every time it rains the water pours into the room. We cannot get a nail or a shingle to put on the Roof. The Yankeys, while our soldiers are destroying them in battle are making us suffer every kind of inconvenience.<sup>7</sup>

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The parlor is entered through a centered door on the west wall of the entry hall. A most unusual mantelpiece is directly opposite on the interior chimney of west wall. This is a distinctively vernacular and detailed mantelpiece with a very wide and deep shelf. The cornice is composed of multiple layers of thin inverted ovolo molding above a single rope molding. The frieze is without elaboration. Twin square columns of intricate fillets support the shelf. There is a single recessed nine-over-six double-hung sash window with raised-panel surrounds on the south and north walls, matching the ones in the entry hall. The door and window architraves have fluted pilasters and corner roundels in this parlor room as well. The floor boards are five-to-six-inches wide. There is a molded baseboard, and the walls are plastered while the ceiling is drywall. An earlier door on the south of the fireplace has been enclosed. A door on the north side of the parlor mantel leads down a stairway into the east hall of Reed's addition.

A door in the northeast corner of this hall leads into the east passage of the north wing. The five-to-six-inch-wide pine floor boards throughout this wing appear original. There is a heavy molded baseboard throughout, and all the walls are plastered, but the ceiling is drywall. Like Reed's addition, the rooms are on the west side of the hall. The passage has a recessed six-over-six double-hung sash wood window with a flat-paneled surround. The main double-leaf front entry door is at the northeast end of the passage. An old brass box lock remains on this door. It opens facing into a deep closet on the west wall. The door to the north master bedroom has raised panels on the hall side and flat panels on the other, demonstrating the hierarchy of the passage. A recessed six-over-six double-hung sash wood window with a flat-paneled surround is centered on the east, north and west walls of this room. The south wall is enriched with an interesting mantelpiece. It has a heavy plain shelf resting on a pulvinated or cushion frieze with heavy plain pilasters. The hearth is brick, and the fireplace surround is stuccoed brick. A door to its west leads into a later added bathroom with a door opposite into the smaller south bedroom. A six-over-six double-hung sash window with flat-paneled surround is on the west wall. The fireplace in this room on the north wall was closed up for closet space by Reed, and a closet door is at the northeast. The door leading back into the passage is on the east wall. It is flat-paneled on the interior, but raised in the hall. The less formal flat paneling indicates that this wing was built as a bedroom chamber.

**Second Floor:** The second floor of the circa 1954 addition has a shallow central hall at the top of the stairs that opens to the large bedroom on the north. Ample closet space with stained pine doors runs along the east front wall. The center door here opens into a large storage closet and the stuccoed back gable end of the circa 1835 front parlor wing. A door at the south end opens into the garret of the south wing where the pegged mortise-and-tenon joined chestnut log rafters, heavy hewn plates and studs fastened with early machine cut nails support the land tax records for its circa 1820 date of construction.<sup>8</sup> A small high opening into the east parlor wing shows mostly mill-sawn framing, some hewn. The sawn rafters are pegged mortise and tenon joints at the rake, and the heavy collar ties are pinned to the rafters. The garret of the circa 1844 north wing is accessed through a door in the northeast corner of the north bedroom. Here the rafters are pegged mortise and tenon joints, but all of the framing is mill sawn. The collar beams with Roman Numerals are joined to the rafters with a cut-nailed, half-dovetail lap joint. Returning to the addition, on the opposite south side of the hall, a small bedroom is on the west with a bathroom on the east.

**Summer Kitchen, contributing building, circa 1820:** The one-story with garret, three-bay, stone summer kitchen with a standing-seam metal gable roof and a central interior stone chimney stands about twenty feet from the southwest corner of the dwelling house. It was converted into a tenant house circa 1940 with a half-story addition

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to the southwest roof in the 1960s. Skylights were installed on the north side of the roof and a door installed in the west gable for access to a tall deck to the garret. The original windows were also removed and replaced with vinyl, and a door in the southwest corner on the first floor was changed to an eight-over-eight window. Sometime in the past a fire burned several hewn framing members on three walls and several ceiling joists. An original door opening remains on the northeast, closest to the dwelling. Since the Spring, the Martins have been restoring this building to its near original condition.

Presently, the one-bay north elevation facing the house has a single-light wood door with a lower cross batten. The one-bay west and east gable ends have a six-over-six double-hung sash wood window on the first story and a six-over-six double-hung sash wood garret window above. The three-bay south elevation has a centered single-light door with a lower cross batten flanked by a six-over-six double-hung sash wood window on the west and a six-over-six double-hung sash wood window on the east.

Interior: The single-pile building has a chamber on each side of the central stone chimney. A rare beehive oven next to the spacious cooking fireplace with stone lintel in the east chamber is a notable feature. Open-stringer stairs lead up from the southeast corner into the garret. A bathroom is in the northwest corner of the west chamber in the garret. Although the 1940-1960 unsympathetic conversion into a tenant house greatly compromised the historic integrity of this important outbuilding, the current rehabilitation appears to be considerably more in compliance with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation* and is greatly improving the historic significance of this resource.

**Meat/Smokehouse, contributing building, circa 1820:** The meat/smokehouse stands about forty feet west of the summer kitchen. It is a one-story, one-bay building with a boxed cornice and a pyramidal standing-seam metal roof with a central wood spire. A long broad-axed lintel is above the wide door opening on the east front elevation. It has a sliding board-and-batten door on the exterior. A six-light, fixed-sash wood window has enclosed the north and south openings which probably had horizontal wood bars when built. Two adzed joists remain in the later ceiling of the interior. The floor is a poured cement slab. This meat/smokehouse has most recently been used for storage and is in very good condition.

**Horse Barn, non-contributing building, 2000:** This is a one-story with hayloft, one-bay-wide, three-bay-deep, frame board-and-batten stable with a standing-seam metal gable roof and central cupola. The building faces northeast and is situated down the hill approximately three-hundred yards to the southwest of the dwelling house.

**Two Silos, non-contributing structures, ca. 1954:** There are two non-contributing concrete silos remaining approximately 350 feet southwest of the dwelling house, now behind the recently constructed horse barn.

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**NOTES**

1. Cynthia McLeod, Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey Form, File No. 30-865, "The Abbey".
2. Frances B. Foster, Works Progress Administration of Virginia Historical Inventory, "Morven," 14-15 June 1937; James R. Green, Jr. of Markham, Virginia, interview by author, 3 March 2000.
3. Washington Reed, Jr., AIA, "Proposed Alterations & Additions, Morven, Fauquier County, Virginia," 14 July 1950. Hinckley, Shepherd and Norden, Architects, Warrenton, Virginia; Fauquier County Land Tax Records 1949-1955.
4. James R. Green, Jr., Collection of Photographs of Morven, Markham, Virginia. Photographs taken of Morven around 1900 when James Keith Marshall and his wife Elizabeth lived on the farm include a view from the northwest showing the two-story log house standing at the future site of the west gable end of Washington Reed's 1954 addition and stone terrace. James Keith Marshall was the son of Fanny L. Ambler Marshall, daughter of Thomas Marshall Ambler.
5. William C. Stribling of Annandale/Markham, Virginia, interview by author, 4 August 2000. The author visited Mountain View with Mr. Stribling and saw very similar details especially in the mantel design.
6. Since the recent removal of the wallpaper, it is apparent that the door to the courtyard was first more to the northwest before 1954.
7. Lucy Johnston Ambler Personal Diaries 1861-1863, 1863-1864, 1876-1885, Private Collection of William C. Stribling, Annandale/Markham, Virginia.
8. Fauquier County Land Tax Records 1820-1855; Restoration Carpenter Chris Snowden advised on 3 January 2001 at the site that the timber framing in the south frame wing is chestnut and not locust as James R. Green, Jr. described on 3 March 2000 which was repeated in the PIF. The author admits to a limited but blossoming expertise in wood identification.

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**Statement of Significance**

The Morven property meets one area of significance relating to the theme of architecture during the nineteenth century in the upper Piedmont region of Fauquier County. Chief Justice John Marshall's nephew Thomas Marshall Ambler began establishing Morven on 1,000 acres lying on the Manor Road in 1816 and was residing on the property the next year.<sup>1</sup> Along with his wife Lucy Johnston Ambler, Thomas built three gable-roofed houses separated by space and function at right angles of each other and adjoining a corner of an earlier log cabin between circa 1820 to 1844, thus creating a cross plan and leaving an open courtyard in the middle. This formation of houses in a cross plan is unheard of in Fauquier County, and the resources illustrate a transition from a simpler frame early Federal-style dwelling to a more elaborated stone late-Federal style with distinctive vernacular details.

**Justification of Criteria**

Morven is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as an architecturally significant farm dwelling house which for more than a hundred years consisted of four separate buildings dating from the late-eighteenth to mid-nineteenth centuries that were developed in a cross plan bordering a center courtyard. This unprecedented building plan in Fauquier County was not altered until the 1950s when former Williamsburg architect Washington Reed removed the cabin and filled the courtyard with another gable-roofed dwelling. Still, the original cross plan remains distinctively evident, as does the impression of four individual houses. This dwelling presents a unique opportunity to study the building techniques of the Early National and Antebellum Periods with Federal-style details influenced by the vernacular. Thomas Marshall Ambler's success as a leading nineteenth-century agriculturalist in Fauquier is demonstrated in the progression of materials, design features and craftsmanship in his expanding dwelling house. Further Morven retains two important contributing stone outbuildings including a summer kitchen with a beehive oven and smokehouse. Significant to plantation life in early America and to the daily activities of the Amblers at Morven, these outbuildings are becoming less frequent on the Northern Virginia landscape due to neglect and urban sprawl.

**Historic Context**

Morven is a portion of a tract un-granted land within the territory of the Northern Neck containing 119,927 acres as bounded on the 15 November 1736 John Warner survey which Proprietor Thomas Lord Fairfax retained and named the Manor of Leeds after his castle in England. Lord Fairfax leased 100 to 300-acre parcels for three lives with a stipulation that the first tenant build a house of at least sixteen by twenty feet with a brick or stone chimney and plant fifty or more fruit trees. Deeming Lord Fairfax a British subject, the Commonwealth escheated his land upon the outbreak of the American Revolution. Following years of litigation and compromises after Fairfax's death in 1781, the State conveyed the Manor lands to Chief Justice John Marshall, his brother James and brother-in-law Raleigh Colston in 1806. In 1815, 4,000 acres of a 10,000-acre reversion adjoining the Rattlesnake and Red Oak Mountains with the residue on the western side of the Blue Ridge was conveyed to John Ambler, husband of the Marshall's sister Lucy. Charles Kemper had surveyed the 4,000 acres for John Marshall in 1814, marking the 1,000 acres that John Ambler conveyed to his son Thomas Marshall Ambler in 1816. The uppermost portion of this conveyance includes the present location of the Morven dwelling and outbuildings when compared to later plats.<sup>2</sup>

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Thomas Marshall Ambler (1791-1875) was born in Jamestown, graduated from William and Mary College and achieved the rank of Major in the war of 1812 while serving in the company of Capt. Robert Gambler. After college, he read law with William C. Williams in Richmond and earned a license to practice.<sup>3</sup> Major Ambler married Lucy Hopkins Johnston (1800-1888) in Lynchburg in 1819 and returned to Fauquier to live on the 1,000 acres given him by his father, perhaps in the log cabin.<sup>4</sup> However, his land acquisition became complicated by the partnership that his father had entered into on the 10,000-acre reversion with William Marshall, another brother to John. In 1817, John and Thomas Ambler brought suit against the heirs of the late William Marshall to cause an equal division as Thomas had "purchased some leases and has proceeded to settle on the land."<sup>5</sup> This partition did occur finally, and between 1825 and 1838, Thomas purchased the so-called mountain land on Thumb Run above his original 1,000 acres.<sup>6</sup>

Lucy and Thomas Ambler reportedly named Morven after a Scottish song, "The Windy Hills of Morven," which suits the brisk hillside.<sup>7</sup> The Ambler's bore nine children at Morven: Lucy Letitia in 1820, John in 1821, Elizabeth Steptoe in 1823, Frances Langhorn "Fanny" in 1825, Charles Edward in 1827, Thomas Marshall in 1829, Richard Jaquelin in 1831, Ann Pickett in 1833 and Mary Cary in 1835. Ann lived only five years.<sup>8</sup> The growing family evidently caused expansion of the dwelling house as was reported by local informants to the WPA surveyor who wrote that "after the advent of each new member of the family, Mr. Ambler would put up an addition to the house."<sup>9</sup> This exaggeration was not quite true to the last wing, but the land tax records and architectural evidence suggest that the south frame house was built by 1824, and another building period occurred between 1834 and 1838, adding \$600 to the assessment. The final noteworthy tax increase appeared in 1844 when the records show \$500 for improvements.<sup>10</sup> It cannot be said with certainty that additions to the dwelling house brought about the tax increases as the farm surely had agricultural buildings and more dooryard outbuildings than the extant summer kitchen and smokehouse. Lucy J. Ambler and daughter Mary Cary Stribling both referenced several outbuildings in their 1862 diaries including, Negro cabins, a blacksmith shop, hen and corn houses, the smokehouse, a spring house and stable.<sup>11</sup> Mrs. Ambler revealed that an ice house stood at Morven when she wrote on 1 January 1877 that "most persons filled their ice houses in December 1876, but we have only about one-third of our ice house filled."<sup>12</sup>

The extraordinary development of Morven's original four dwelling houses around a central courtyard in a cross plan is a distinguishing architectural feature that has not been discovered on any other residence in Fauquier County.<sup>13</sup> While architect Washington Reed eliminated the central courtyard of the cross plan in the early 1950s, he honored the original plan by leaving it intact with his addition. It is significant to have the three remaining buildings dating from ca. 1820 to 1844 together as a study of the transition of design and details from the simpler frame dwelling to the more embellished late Federal style, influenced by Major Ambler's success and wealth. Although the house demonstrates strong Federal-style elements including symmetry, the low-pitched gable roofs, the elliptical transom over the front parlor-wing door, larger window glazing with thinner muntins (on the 1835 and 1844 dwellings), roundel bulls-eye corner blocks on the interior door architraves and rectangular patterns on the mantels, it also has characteristic vernacular influences. Those include the thinner rectangular modillions on the 1835 gable-fronting cornice along with the picket-size dentils in the frieze of the porch and the distinctive design of the mantelpieces in the parlor and in the cellar. Further, Morven is a rare example of a dwelling built in stages separating functions as exemplified in the circa 1820 frame wing, a basic hall and chamber, the formality of the 1835 front entry and parlor wing and the private 1844 bedroom wing which shows hierarchy from a formal passage to plainer family chambers.

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As a descendant of Fauquier County's distinguished Marshall family, Thomas M. Ambler was close to his relatives. Chief Justice John Marshall held his nephew in such high regard that he named him as a trustee for daughter Mary Harvie and for the wife and children of his son John in his will.<sup>14</sup> A devout Episcopalian, Major Ambler, James K. Marshall and Edward C. Marshall were the trustees who Jaquelin A. Marshall conveyed just over an acre of land next to Morven on which Leeds Episcopal church was built in 1842.<sup>15</sup> Three of the Ambler sons became Episcopal ministers: John, Charles Edward and Thomas Marshall.<sup>16</sup> The Amblers routinely welcomed clergyman, family and travelers for overnight stays at Morven. This hospitality along with providing shelter for students, such as nephew Richard Jaquelin Ambler, Jr. of Fescati in Orange County, attending Morven's school The Abbey (named after teacher Ezra Abbott) likely contributed to the need to expand the dwelling house.<sup>17</sup> While The Abbey is no longer a part of the Morven property, it remains an important outlying nineteenth-century resource once attended by Leeds Manor neighborhood children including the Amblers, the Marshalls, the Striblings and Turner Ashby.<sup>18</sup>

Although Major Ambler was a licensed lawyer, he devoted a lifetime to agriculture. The 1850 Agricultural Census for Fauquier County lists him as a "Farmer-Daryman" on 1,450 improved and 700 unimproved acres, with a farm value of \$44,000. The combined agricultural acreage placed Morven as the sixth largest farm in Fauquier County and the fourth highest in farm value. The largest farm in 1850 consisted of 3,000 acres, and the highest farm value was \$54,000. Major Ambler had \$4,000 in livestock, seventeen horses, 130 "milch" cows, fifteen other cows, four working oxen, sixty swine and twenty sheep yielding 100 pounds of wool. His crop production on the land included 600 bushels of wheat, 2,500 bushels of Indian corn, 100 bushels of oats, forty bushels of Irish potatoes, 130 tons of hay and four pounds of hops. More remarkably, however, the dairyman produced 800 pounds of butter and 40,000 pounds of cheese. Major Ambler owned the most milking cows in the County and by far surpassed every other farmer's cheese output including his son John who had the second highest at 14,000 pounds on 250 acres with forty dairy cows.

Ten years later, Thomas Marshall Ambler had 2,000 acres of agricultural land valued at \$60,000, and had reversed his focus from milking cows to beef cattle. Yet, he may not have favored a beef diet personally, as his wife wrote from Morven to her sister on 23 November 1857 that "Mr. Ambler eats bread and milk for his dinner and I hardly like to have cooking done for myself. We have just had a remarkably fine beef killed, but we will have verily[?] any of it at our table as there is no one to eat it, but no doubt Jaquelin's boy will enjoy it as they will have the most of it. I am glad they are so near as they will have all our [?] meat."<sup>19</sup> In a field of 925 Fauquier County farms in 1860, Major Ambler, at sixty-nine years of age, had slipped to being eleventh in acreage and fifteenth in highest farm value, still a prestigious status showing that he played a prominent role in Fauquier County's pre-Civil War agricultural history. Major Ambler does not appear in the 1870 agricultural census to evaluate the effect of the war on the farm, perhaps because the farmer had reached an elderly age of seventy nine.<sup>20</sup>

While no major confrontation has been documented at Morven in particular on Leeds Manor Road during the Civil War, there were two skirmishes in Markham on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of November in 1862 and action at Barbees Crossroads (later Hume) on the 5<sup>th</sup> of November. More skirmishes took place at Barbees Crossroads on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, July 25<sup>th</sup> and September 1<sup>st</sup> in 1863, and scouting expeditions by Confederate and Yankee troops were constantly conducted on Leeds Manor Grade/Road during these two years.<sup>21</sup> Their infiltration caused isolation and much disturbance to ordinary daily life at Morven as Lucy and her daughter Mary Cary described in their diaries:

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[This from Lucy on 28 March 1862] We seem to be shut out from the world since the destruction of the Railroad bridges by our own people. Occasionally we have an opportunity of writing to our friends within the lines of the army by persons passing on to the army. Our mails have ceased and we only get letters by chance. For the past week we hear continuous booming of cannon and know that our people are resisting the attacks of the insolent foe who pollutes our soil with his footprints.<sup>22</sup>

[Mary Cary appears to have described the original central courtyard as a "brick entry" when she wrote on 26 April 1862] The Yankee who went for the key [to the smokehouse] was quite a goodlooking man, very well mounted, and quite a good rider. He would not let Papa stay while they were loading the wagons but kept drawing him away to talk to him, and finally came stalking into the house, slighting the eleven out doors. He found his way into a queer little opening (unlike any that a house ever had before) into the brick entry. He stalked across the passage into the parlour and began writing just before the open door.<sup>23</sup> [Her reference to the "queer little opening" may mean the open space between the frame house, log cabin and parlor wings of the dwelling house.]

[Lucy on 23 March 1863] They [Yankees] have become so purposely desperate that they are willing to bend their necks to the yoke of despotism. They talk as strongly as ever of starving out the South . . . I cannot help repeating behold what desolation this war bringeth upon us. Our church is broken up, our children gone away. Our enemies have endeavored to deprive us of everything . . . We are but pilgrims.<sup>24</sup>

[Lucy wrote about a significant visitor on 10 July 1863] Major Mosby dined with us today. I think he must have known something of the army but he gave us no news. [His name?] has been a great terror to the Yankeys pouncing upon them always in the most unexpected manner.<sup>25</sup>

[Lucy on 21 July-3 August 1863] The 23<sup>rd</sup> the Yankey army commenced passing by. They annoyed us in every possible way. They commenced killing our fowls . . . They shot our sheep down, cut what they wanted off, and left the rest in the field. They killed half our hogs. They took every horse and all the cattle except my milch cows, two of which they took . . . The Yankeys did not leave any place but two rooms unsearched. They broke open the smoke-house, took half my bacon . . . They then went to the back part of the house and forced the door . . . the horrid brutes came into my chamber stole a pair of shoes and two of Mr. Ambler's shirts. They took every hen the negroes had but one. They pulled open the press and took a little money they found in it . . . I had to keep guard at the doors of the rooms in the brick entry [another indication that the courtyard was brick] by sitting there all day . . . I sat and guarded four outside doors (our house has eleven) and when one set of hungry beggars went out, another came in . . . I feel very low spirited to-day [August 3<sup>rd</sup>]. My husband's shirts want patching. The Yankeys came in and took two, one a very good one. I have nothing to patch his shirts with. Indeed, everything looks very gloomy. From having a comfortable table, I am reduced to a bacon bone.<sup>26</sup>

Still, the Amblers survived the lean Civil War years. Major Thomas Marshall Ambler died at Morven on 4 September 1875 at eighty-four years of age. Five of his children had predeceased him, and Charles Edward and Richard Jaquelin died just a few months after their father. Lucy Johnston Ambler wrote in her diary on the 18<sup>th</sup> of



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February 1876 that "these last ten months have been a very sad time for me."<sup>27</sup> The elderly farmer had considerable wealth at the time of his death with his livestock, household and kitchen furniture at Morven valued at \$2,214, and he still owned 3,061 acres of land in Fauquier and 3,900 acres in West Virginia.<sup>28</sup>

Since Major Ambler died intestate, his son Thomas brought a chancery suit for division of the estate against Robert M. Stribling, who as the son-in-law of the deceased was appointed by the court as administrator. The infant children of Mary C. Ambler Stribling, deceased, were also included in this partitioning suit. Mary had died at nearby Mountain View when an oil lamp exploded in her hands in 1868.<sup>29</sup> Daughter Fanny Ambler Marshall wife of James Keith Marshall received Division No. 4, comprised of 384 acres valued at \$10,410.32. The court ordered that Major Ambler's children pay their widowed mother \$900 a year plus all of the household and kitchen furniture belonging to the estate, and she lived her remaining years at Morven until her death in 1888.<sup>30</sup>

When Fanny died in 1898, she willed the 384-acre Morven property with dwelling house, barn and outbuildings to her son Jim in consideration for what he had done for her in her old age. He also received the "card table in the parlor that belonged to Chief Justice Marshall."<sup>31</sup> Great grandson of the Chief Justice, James Keith Marshall, his wife Elizabeth Hirst and their five children lived at Morven until 1919. Family photographs, believed taken between 1895-1905 at Morven judging by the ages of the children, show family activities including hunting, horseback riding and watching the knightly tournament hurdle-races held there that appear to be heavily attended.<sup>32</sup>

Ring tournament races in Fauquier County were well-attended community sporting and social events in the mid-nineteenth and early twentieth centuries when families donned finery and rode their carriages over to the hillside of a hosting neighborhood farm to watch the local gentry display gallant equestrian skills in jousting competitions. The northwest hillside behind the Morven dwelling house offered a perfect vantage point to view the races in the valley below. It seems that ring tournaments did not arrive in America until August of 1840 when the contest was "introduced" at Fauquier White Sulphur Springs near Warrenton following accounts of European games in Strutt's *Sports and Pastimes* and Mills' *Chivalry*.<sup>33</sup>

Like the medieval games of the United Kingdom and France, young men dressed as knights with lances, mounted their finest Virginia-bred horses and then formed a line before the spectators among which lovely maidens sometimes sat as judges of the games. The herald would present the knights to the ladies before they rode to their position on the long obstacle course laid out with hurdles that included the indigenous stone fences bordering fields and wide ditches leading up to the goal - a ring hanging between two posts which they were to snare with the lance. The herald sounded his trumpet to announce each knight's turn, and he had three chances. The winning knight who successfully took the most rings chose his lady of love and beauty from the maiden judges or audience who he crowned as his queen. She would bestow upon him the victor's wreath and accompany him to a ball following the tournament. The games attracted several important Markham participants over the years including Turner Ashby before his death in the Civil War, the Amblers and Marshalls.<sup>34</sup> It is significant that the Amblers and Marshalls hosted these entertainment and recreational events at Morven in the recovery years following the Civil War when the Markham community suffered from isolation and deprivation caused by the marauding Yankees that Lucy described in her diaries.

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In 1919, James and Elizabeth Marshall moved to Arlington and sold the 384-acre Morven gentry estate to her younger sister Emilye "Tudie" Hirst who married neighbor Leroy Baxley.<sup>35</sup> Baxley began parceling off portions of the farm and passed it on to his son Henry who sold 361.9 acres to Charles Henry Smith of Alexandria. It looked like Morven would be subdivided for development in the late 1940s when Markham landowner James R. Green purchased 354.5 acres.<sup>36</sup> Planning to move with wife Caroline Marshall Ribble and their respectfully-named son and daughter to the dwelling house that still held its original plan of four distinct houses around a courtyard, Green hired architect Washington Reed to design the two-story west addition that was finished before 1955.<sup>37</sup> James Robert Green operated a dairy and general farm at Morven, upholding the tradition begun by Thomas Marshall Ambler in the nineteenth century. In addition to his farming responsibilities, Mr. Green had strong civic convictions demonstrated by leading the campaign to establish the first soil conservation district in Fauquier County, and he served as supervisor of the John Marshall Soil Conservation District from 1966 to 1968. He also represented his Marshall Magisterial District on the Fauquier County School Board for more than thirteen years.<sup>38</sup>

Mrs. Green, James, Jr. and Caroline G. inherited Morven upon the elder's death in 1968, and his widow and son continued to live in the dwelling house, making some alteration to accommodate her wheelchair in later years, until her death in 1995. Caroline G. Graham removed to a portion of Morven land, and she still owns The Abbey.<sup>39</sup> Jimmy and Caroline Green have fond memories of living at Morven, and both recalled during a recent interview that their mother had wanted the historic property the most and helped pay for it with her teaching salary. They described Morven as an open house, as it must have been when the Amblers welcomed visiting ministers, students, family and travelers. Speaking of his mother Jimmy said, "She was the epitome of a true Southern Lady. There were always Sunday lunches after church with fifteen or twenty people."<sup>40</sup> Caroline continued:

We had the best time growing up at Morven. Our parents were such good hosts. They were known as the host and hostess of the countryside. It was an open house for all kinds, white and black people alike, the writer of Field and Stream came to visit. Mother always made dinner for six to have extra even when there were only four of us. Both believed in visiting friends and neighbors. It was a loving house. Morven had antiques and was dressed up for people — decorated for the holidays. We always had a big Christmas Eve party. At first just for us family, when we had baked beans and hot dogs. Then friends enlarged the party. My father always made lots of egg nog and put it in milk cans on the back porch. Afterwards, Morven became the favored neighborhood Christmas Eve party. In the winter, there were sledding parties down the hill with bonfires and hot chocolate. Morven thrives for people. They always wanted to come and visit. The minister from Leeds Episcopal Church always came to dinner on Sunday. The visiting ministers came. The house and my parents were community oriented. I always imagined the front door with arms waving and beckoning people to come in.<sup>41</sup>

Preservationists Suzanne A. Martin and her husband John, most recently of Columbus, North Carolina, now own the fifty-acre Morven tract which includes the dwelling house, summer kitchen and smokehouse.<sup>42</sup> Their past experience and desire to maintain the remaining historic integrity of Morven is guiding a slow and thoughtful approach to its recovery from a period of neglect and incompatible alteration as done on the stone summer kitchen. Mrs. Martin has also begun a dialog with neighboring property owners to spur interest in a conservation easement that will further protect the historic significance and historic integrity of Morven, a most unusual dwelling house.

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**NOTES**

1. Fauquier County Deed Book 20, Page 272, John Ambler and wife Catharine to Thomas Ambler, 22 May 1816.
2. Fauquier County Chancery Suit 1839-019, *Marshall vs Gibson*; Charles T. Cullen, Charles F. Hobson and Herbert A. Johnson, eds., *The Papers of John Marshall*, 10 vols. (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1974-2000), 2:140-156, 6:93-95, 472-476, 7:186-187.; Jean Edward Smith, *John Marshall Definer of a Nation* (New York: Henry Holt and Company, Inc., 1996), 164-168.
3. Lucy Johnston Ambler Personal Diaries 1861-1863, 1863-1864, 1876-1885, Private Collection of William C. Stribling, Annandale/Markham, Virginia. Mrs. Ambler stated on 18 February 1876 that her husband had died on the 4<sup>th</sup> of September 1875 at age 84. His tombstone at Leeds Episcopal Church Cemetery confirms that date of death and has his date of birth as 1 May 1791; Richard Jaquelin Ambler, I, "History of the Ambler Family in Virginia, 1826 and Journal of John Jaquelin Ambler, Jr., 1841-1854," (Richmond: Library of Virginia Microfilm Miscellaneous Reel 963), Journal p. 73.
4. William M. Paxton, *The Marshall Family* (Cincinnati, Ohio: Robert Clarke & Co., 1885), 148-149; Fauquier County Clerk's Loose Papers, Land Causes and Ejectment Suit Series. The Clerk's Loose Papers were thoroughly researched for a recorded lease and assignment on and near Morven to determine the possible first and later tenants of the non-extant log cabin, without success. While Lord Fairfax's leases stipulated that no reassignment of leases could occur without permission, the plethora of ejectment suits against nameless unknown tenants shows a disregard of this provision. The assignments made the collection of rents and tracking of occupants onerous as westward expansion occurred.
5. Fauquier County Chancery Suit 1868-035, *Ambler vs Marshalls*, Box 187.
6. Fauquier County Deed Book 30, Page 346, William D. Taylor and wife Elizabeth Adams Taylor of Hanover County to Thomas M. Ambler, 28 April 1829; Fauquier County Chancery Suit 1834-031, *Marshall, Thomas vs Taylor, William D. and wife*.
7. Works Progress Administration Records, *Old Homes and Families of Fauquier County, Virginia*, "Morven" (Berryville, Virginia: Virginia Book Company, 1978), 171.
8. Paxton, 262-266; Ambler Family History, 73.
9. WPA Records, 171.
10. Fauquier County Land Tax Records 1820-1900.
11. Emily G. Ramey and John K. Gott, *The Years of Anguish Fauquier County, Virginia 1861-1865* (Warrenton, Virginia: Fauquier County Civil War Centennial Committee, 1965), 104-138.
12. Ambler Diaries, 1876-1885.
13. Cynthia MacLeod, Architectural Survey for Fauquier County, 1980.
14. Fauquier County Chancery Suit 1848-033, *Strother vs Marshall et al*. Last Will and Testament of John Marshall recorded in Richmond 10 July 1835.

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15. *Fauquier County Deed Book 42, Page 308, Jaquelin A. Marshall to Thomas M. Ambler, James K. Marshall and Edward C. Marshall, 18 August 1842.*

16. Ambler Family History, 73.

17. Clara S. McCarty, *The Foothills of the Blue Ridge in Fauquier County, Virginia* (Warrenton, Virginia: *The Fauquier Democrat*, 1974), 125-127, 138-139; WPA Records, 170-173; Ambler Journal, 1840-1846.

18. Fauquier County Bicentennial Committee, *Fauquier County Virginia 1759-1959* (Warrenton, Virginia: Virginia Publishing, Incorporated, 1959), 193.

19. Lucy Johnston Ambler at Morven, Fauquier County, to her sister, 23 November 1857 (Richmond: Virginia Historical Society, VIHMs1J6445a142, "James Ambler Johnston Papers, 1784-1902").

20. U. S. Bureau of the Census, *Eighth Manuscript Agricultural Schedule, 1860; Ninth Manuscript Agricultural Schedule, 1870.*

21. *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, series 1, vol. 19, part 2 (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1887), 79, 91, 93, 103, 115-147, 570-571, 693-694; Jeremy Francis Gilmer, "Fauquier County, 1863" Map (Richmond: Virginia Historical Society). Mr. Gilmer's map labels Leeds Manor Road as "Leeds Manor Grade" as State-improved roads were called in the nineteenth century.

22. Ambler Diary, 28 March 1862.

23. Ramey and Gott, 117.

24. Ambler Diary, 23 March 1863.

25. Ambler Diary, 10 July 1863.

26. Ramey and Gott, 105-108.

27. Ambler Diary, 18 February 1875.

28. Fauquier County Will Book 36, Page 12, Appraisal of Thomas Marshall Ambler, deceased; Fauquier County Deed Book 68, Page 90, Division of Thomas M. Ambler's, decd., Real Estate, 19 September 1876.

29. William C. Stribling of Annandale/Markham, Virginia, interview by author, 4 August 2000.

30. FC DB 68/90; Ambler Diaries, 1876-1885; Stribling, 4 August 2000; Lucy Johnston Ambler's tombstone in Leeds Episcopal Church Cemetery gives her date of death as 10 November 1888 and her birth as 30 October 1800.

31. Fauquier County Will Book 42, Page 289, Last Will and Testament of Fanny L. Marshall, 15 April 1898, Recorded 27 June 1898.

32. James R. Green, Jr. Collection.

33. G. Harrison Orians, "The Origin of the Ring Tournament in the United States," *The Maryland Historical Society Magazine* 36 (September 1941): 268.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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**Morven  
Fauquier County, Virginia**

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34. Oriens, 271; Ambler Journal, 50-54; Rev. James B. Avirett, *The Memoirs of General Turner Ashby and His Compeers* (Baltimore, Maryland: Selby & Dulaney, 1867), 30-39.

35. Lindsey Grant of Bethesda, Maryland, "Morven: A Hundred Years, a Hundred Years." February 1989, James R. Green, Jr. Photograph Collection; Fauquier County Deed Book 120, Page 129, James Keith Marshall and wife Elizabeth H. to J. Leroy Baxley, 12 December 1919.

36. Deed Book 127, Page 352 J. Leroy Baxley (widower) to Chester A. Coleman and Hezekiah Coleman, 20 October 1925, 5 acres each being a portion of Morven; Deed Book 155, Page 458, J. Leroy Baxley and wife Dorothy Fell to H. L. Baxley, 1 September 1944, 384 A. 1 R. 18 P. known as Morven; Deed Book 158, Page 232, H. L. Baxley and wife Mamie Yates to Walter Botts Reid and wife Elizabeth C., 20 September 1945 of 2.41 acres being a part of Morven; Deed Book 160, Page 253, H. L. Baxley and wife Mamie Yates to Chester Coleman, 11 October 1946, 7.4 acres being a part of Morven; Deed Book 160, Page 252, H. L. Baxley and wife Mamie Yates Baxley to Charles Henry Smith of Alexandria, 15 October 1946, 354.5 acres known as Morven; Deed Book 160, Page 452, Charles Henry Smith and wife Fanny J. to Auburn Gardens, Inc., 3 December 1946, 354.5 acres known as Morven; Deed Book 173, Page 119, Auburn Gardens, Incorporated to James R. Green and wife Caroline Ribble, 22 June 1950, 354.5 acres more or less.

37. Fauquier County Land Tax Records 1950-1955.

38. *The Fauquier Democrat*, 29 February 1968. James R. Green Obituary.

39. Fauquier County Will Book 85, Page 269, Last Will and Testament of James R. Green, deceased on 23 February 1968.

40. James R. Green, Jr. and Caroline Green Graham of Markham, Virginia, interview by author, 18 December 2000.

41. Caroline Green, 18 December 2000.

42. Fauquier County Deed Book 860, Page 750, James R. Green, Jr. to William Davidson Trustee of the Suzanne A. Martin Revocable Living Trust, 27 January 2000, 50-acre parcel designated as Lot B according to attached plat and survey.

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**Morven  
Fauquier County, Virginia**

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**Fauquier County, Virginia**

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Fauquier County Deed Book 30, page 346, 28 April 1829.

Fauquier County Deed Book 38, page 24, 22 July 1837.

Fauquier County Deed Book 38, page 215, 28 August 1838.

Fauquier County Deed Book 38, page 217, 28 July 1838.

Fauquier County Deed Book 42, page 308, 18 August 1842.

Fauquier County Deed Book 68, page 90, 19 September 1876.

Fauquier County Deed Book 92, page 19, 5 October 1900.

Fauquier County Deed Book 120, page 129, 12 December 1919.

Fauquier County Deed Book 127, page 352, 20 October 1925.

Fauquier County Deed Book 155, page 458, 1 September 1944.

Fauquier County Deed Book 133, page 403, 20 September 1945.

Fauquier County Deed Book 158, page 232, 20 September 1945.

Fauquier County Deed Book 160, page 253, 15 October 1946.

Fauquier County Deed Book 160, page 252, 3 December 1946.

Fauquier County Deed Book 160, page 452, 3 December 1946.

Fauquier County Deed Book 173, page 119, 22 June 1950.

Fauquier County Deed Book 350, page 601, 20 August 1977.

Fauquier County Deed Book 358, page 9, 20 August 1977.

Fauquier County Deed Book 686, page 1818, 30 December 1992.

Fauquier County Deed Book 693, page 1089, 12 April 1993.

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**Morven  
Fauquier County, Virginia**

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Fauquier County Deed Book 730, page 1780-1781, 29 October 1994.

Fauquier County Deed Book 761, page 428, 27 January 2000.

Fauquier County Deed Book 816, page 502, 14 September 1998.

Fauquier County Deed Book 860, page 747, 26 January 2000.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 10 Page 20

**Morven  
Fauquier County, Virginia**

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**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA (continued)**

**UTM References (continued)**

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
E	18	239700	4306400	F	17	760290	4306370
G	17	760100	4306320	H	17	759820	4306080
I	17	759600	4306140	J	17	759530	4306340

The approximate boundary of the 50-acre nominated property is delineated by the polygon with vertices marked by the preceding UTM reference points.

**Verbal Boundary Description:**

The Morven property, PIN # 6020-60-5246, is approximately twenty-two miles northwest of the Town of Warrenton, three miles north of Hume and two miles south of the Village of Markham in the Marshall District of Fauquier County, Virginia. The tract fronts on Virginia Route 688/Leeds Manor Road and lies northwest of Virginia Route 729 and south of Virginia Route 728 as shown on the vicinity map from Fauquier Deed Book 860/753 on the following page and on the included Orlean and Flint Hill quadrant USGS maps.

**Boundary Justification:**

The boundary contains the land purchased on 27 January 2000 by William Davidson, Trustee of the Suzanne A. Martin Revocable Living Trust for Suzanne A. Martin. It has been selected to include the three contributing historic resources including the dwelling house, summer kitchen and smokehouse which retain their historic integrity and the outer agricultural landscape where Thomas Marshall Ambler's farm buildings, ice house and blacksmith shop formerly stood, according to early photographs. This boundary relates to the themes of significance and historic context described in Sections Seven and Eight.

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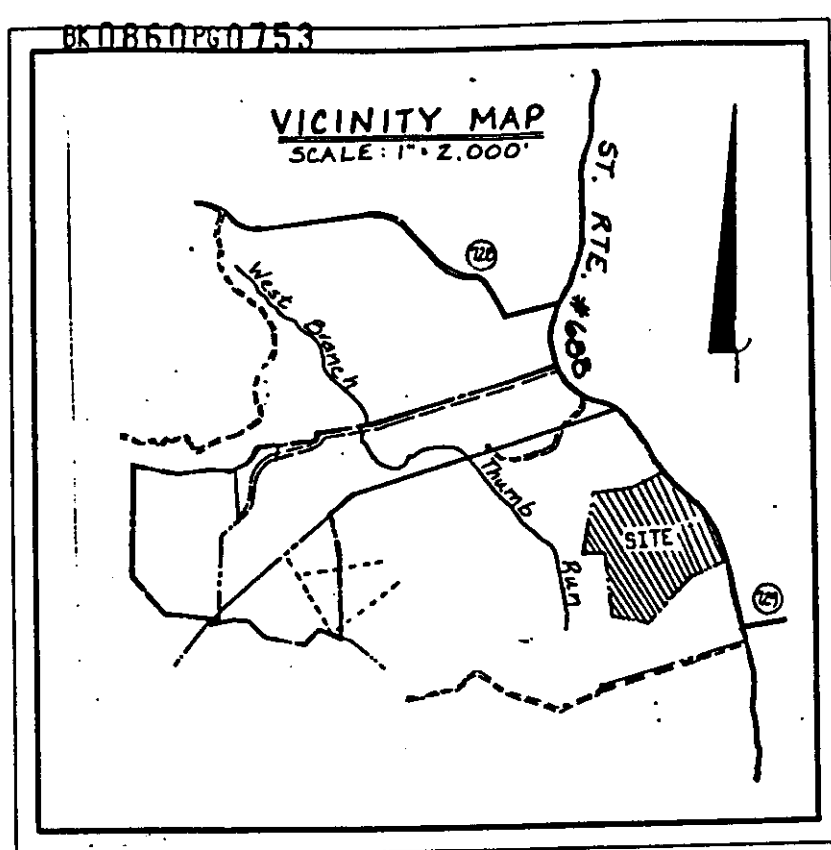
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 10 Page 21

Morven  
Fauquier County, Virginia

**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA (continued)**

Verbal Boundary Description - Vicinity Map



**SURVEYOR'S CERTIFICATE**

I, WAYNE E. NISKANEN, A DULY AUTHORIZED LAND SURVEYOR, DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT I HAVE CAREFULLY SURVEYED THE LAND DELINEATED HEREON; THAT IT IS CORRECT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF; THAT IT IS A PORTION OF THE LAND CONVEYED TO JAMES R. GREEN, JR BY DEED DATED AUGUST 02, 1996 AND RECORDED IN DEED BOOK 761 AT PAGE 428 AMONG THE LAND RECORDS OF FAUQUIER COUNTY, VIRGINIA.

PLAT SHOWING DIVISION OF THE LAND OF JAMES R. GREEN	
SCALE: 1"=200'	MARSHALL DISTRICT

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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Section Photograph List Page 22

**Morven  
Fauquier County, Virginia**

**PHOTOGRAPHS VDHR FILE # 30-864**      Negatives are filed at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources  
All photographs are of Morven      2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, Virginia  
Fauquier County, Virginia  
Credit: Cheryl H. Shepherd      **VDHR Film Roll # 18901**

1. DATE: March 2000  
VIEW OF: Dwelling House East & North  
Elevations facing southwest.  
Neg. No. 18901 - 1  
Photo 1 of 18
2. DATE: March 2000  
VIEW OF: Dwelling House East Front  
Elevation, view facing northwest.  
Neg. No. 18901 - 2  
Photo 2 of 18
3. DATE: March 2000  
VIEW OF: Dwelling House East Front  
Elevation facing west.  
Neg. No. 18901 - 3  
Photo 3 of 18
4. DATE: March 2000  
VIEW OF: Dwelling House East Front  
with South Frame Wing, East Front Parlor  
Wing facing northwest  
Neg. No. 18901 - 4  
Photo 4 of 18
5. DATE: March 2000  
VIEW OF: Dwelling House East Front  
Elevation of the North Bedroom Wing;  
View facing west.  
Neg. No. 18901 - 5  
Photo 5 of 18
6. DATE: March 2000 Dwelling House  
VIEW OF: Cornice Detail of Pedimented Front Porch  
Compared to Modillion Cornice of Main Projecting  
Parlor Gable, facing west.  
Neg. No. 18901 - 6  
Photo 6 of 18
7. DATE: March 2000 Dwelling House  
VIEW OF: East Front Raised-panel, Dbl-leaf Door  
w/Elliptical Transom & Molding Detail, facing west.  
Neg. No. 18901 - 7  
Photo 7 of 18
8. DATE: March 2000  
VIEW OF: Dwelling House South Gable End of the  
ca. 1820 South Wing & South Side Elev. of ca. 1835  
Parlor Wing w/its ca. 1870 side porch, facing north.  
Neg. No. 18901 - 8  
Photo 8 of 18
9. DATE: March 2000  
VIEW OF: Dwelling House, Meat House, Summer  
Kitchen West Rear Elevations w/rear yard setting,  
facing east.  
Neg. No. 18901 - 9  
Photo 9 of 18
10. DATE: March 2000  
VIEW OF: Dwelling House, Meat House Rear Yard Setting, facing  
Neg. No. 18901 - 10  
Photo 10 of 18

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Photograph List Page 23

**Morven  
Fauquier County, Virginia**

11. DATE: March 2000  
VIEW OF: Dwelling House Interior  
Main Front Entrance Hall w/center door  
architrave to parlor. Parlor Mantel in distance.  
Neg. No. 18901 - 11  
Photo 11 of 18

12. DATE: March 2000  
VIEW OF: Dwelling House Interior  
In ca. 1820 South Wing Facing South Wall  
w/Mantelpiece flanked on E by door to entrance hall  
Neg. No. 18901 - 12  
Photo 12 of 18

13. DATE: March 2000  
VIEW OF: Dwelling House Interior in  
North Bedroom of ca. 1844 Wing facing south  
wall with cushion-frieze mantel.  
Neg. No. 18901 - 13  
Photo 13 of 18

14. DATE: March 2000  
Dwelling House Interior Cellar  
ca. 1835 Front Parlor Wing Facing Mantelpiece on  
west interior stone chimney, formerly a dining room.  
Neg. No. 18901- 14  
Photo 14 of 18

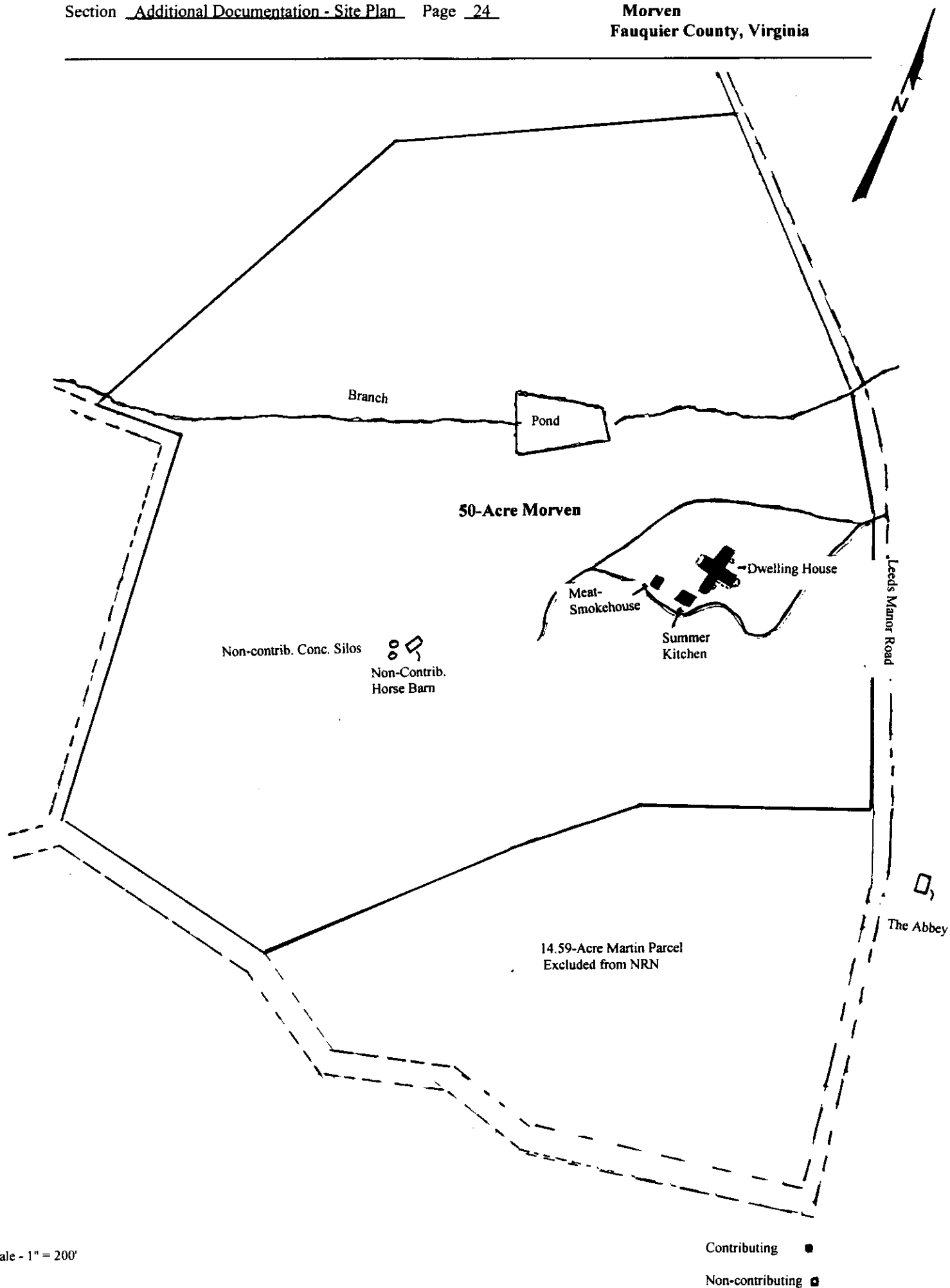
15. DATE: March 2000  
VIEW OF: Stone Meat/smokehouse  
East front & South Side Elevations facing northwest.  
Neg. No. 18901 - 15  
Photo 15 of 18

16. DATE: March 2000  
VIEW OF: Stone Summer Kitchen Interior  
Facing west to Central Interior Stone Fireplace with  
Beehive Oven.  
Neg. No. 18901- 16  
Photo 16 of 18

17. DATE: January 2001  
VIEW OF: Summer Kitchen East Gable  
End & North Side Elevation Post  
Rehabilitation.  
Neg. No.18901 - 17  
Photo 17 of 18

18. DATE: January 2001  
VIEW OF: Non-contributing Horse Barn  
North Elevation facing southwest.  
Neg. No.18901 - 18  
Photo 18 of 18

(Inserted two copy photographs of the ca. 1895  
Ring Tournaments at Morven, the first is facing  
southeast to the dwelling, showing the extant  
log cabin; the second is facing northwest to the  
tournament field. These two negs. w/CS.)

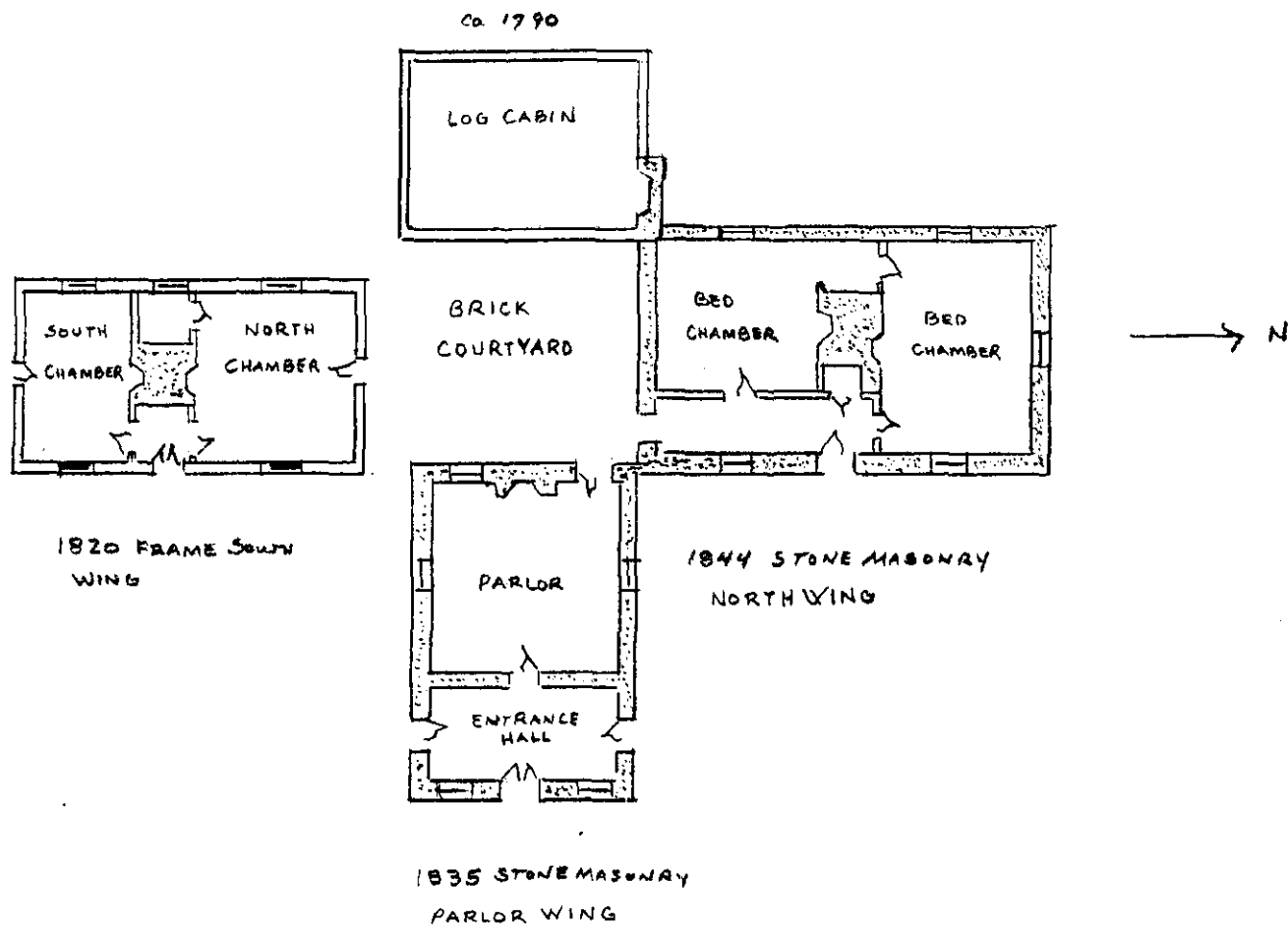


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Section Additional Documentation Page 25  
Dwelling Floor plan 1844-1953

**Morven**  
**Fauquier County, Virginia**



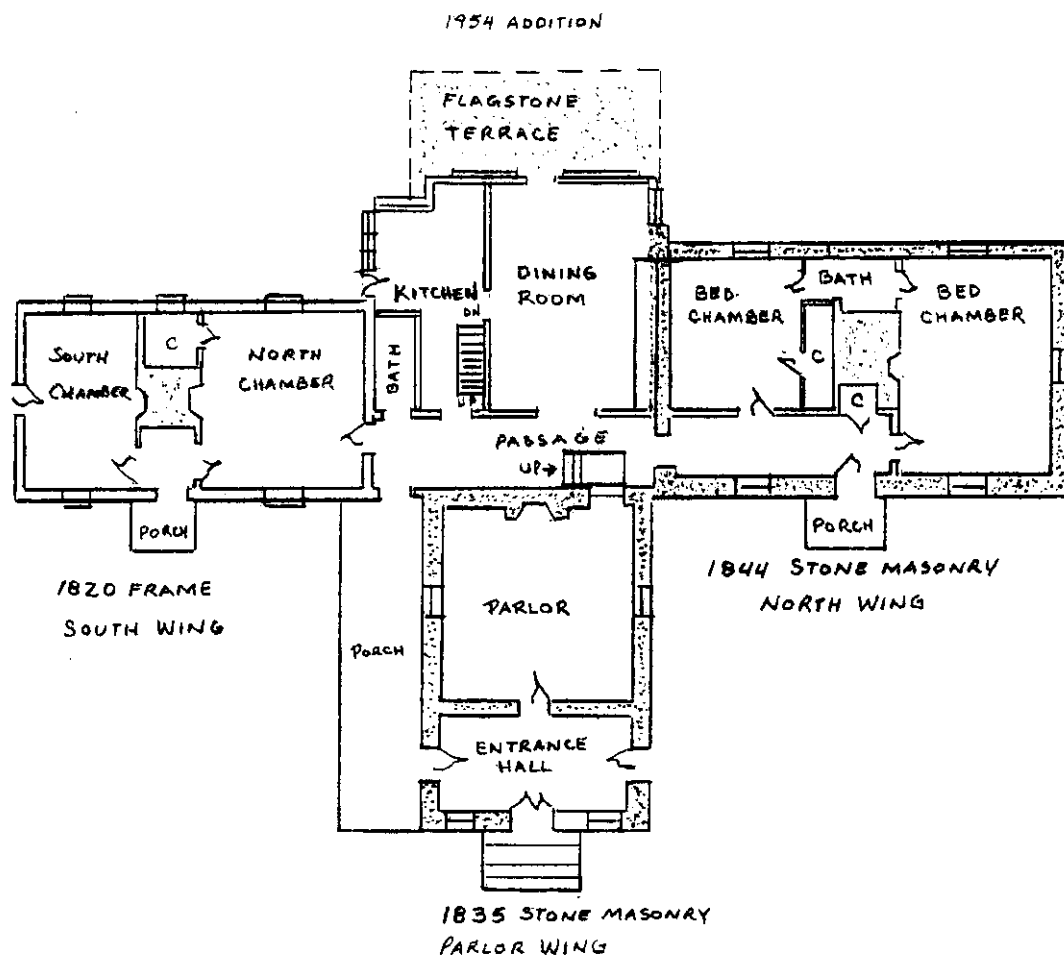
SCALE -  $\frac{1}{8}$ " = 2 FEET

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Section Additional Documentation Page 26  
Dwelling Floor plan in 2001

Morven  
Fauquier County, Virginia



SCALE 1/8" = 2 FEET

(ALL FLINT HILL ROAD)  
FOR OTHER HALF

MORVEN 50-864  
3918 LEEDS MANOR ROAD (ROUTE 688)  
MARKHAM, VIRGINIA



COMMONWEALTH  
DIVISION OF MINE

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

5361 NE  
(LINDEN)

78°00' 27 MI TO VA. 55 1240  
38°52'30"

241000m E.

242

243 57'30"

244

5461 N  
(UPPER)

18 239,360E

18 4306,980N

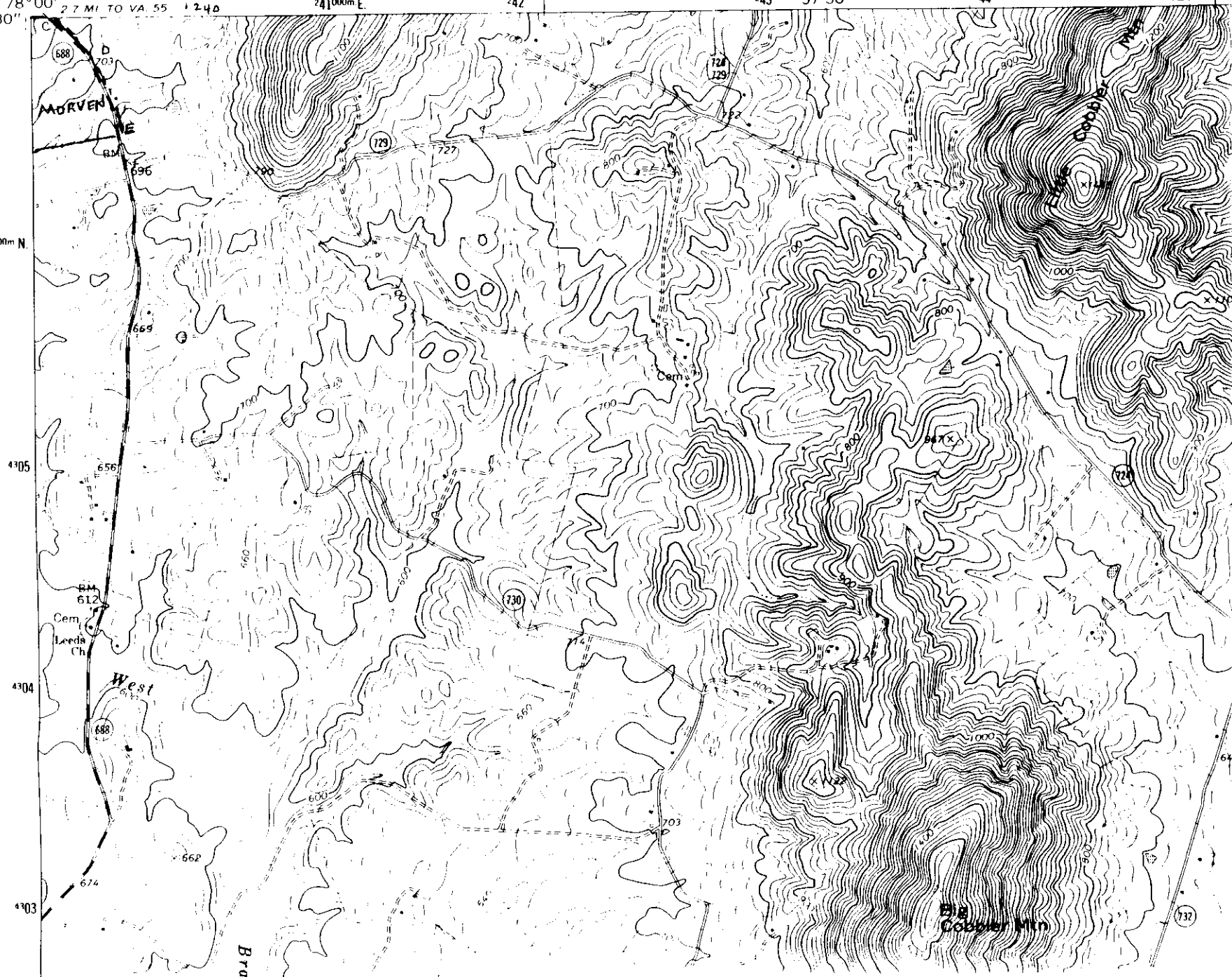
18 239,580E

18 4306,820N

18 239,700E

4306000m N.

18 4306,400N





OF VIRGINIA  
ERAL RESOURCES

MORVEN 30-864

3918 LEEDS MANOR ROAD

MARKHAM, VIRGINIA

FAUQUIER COUNTY

(ROUTE 608)

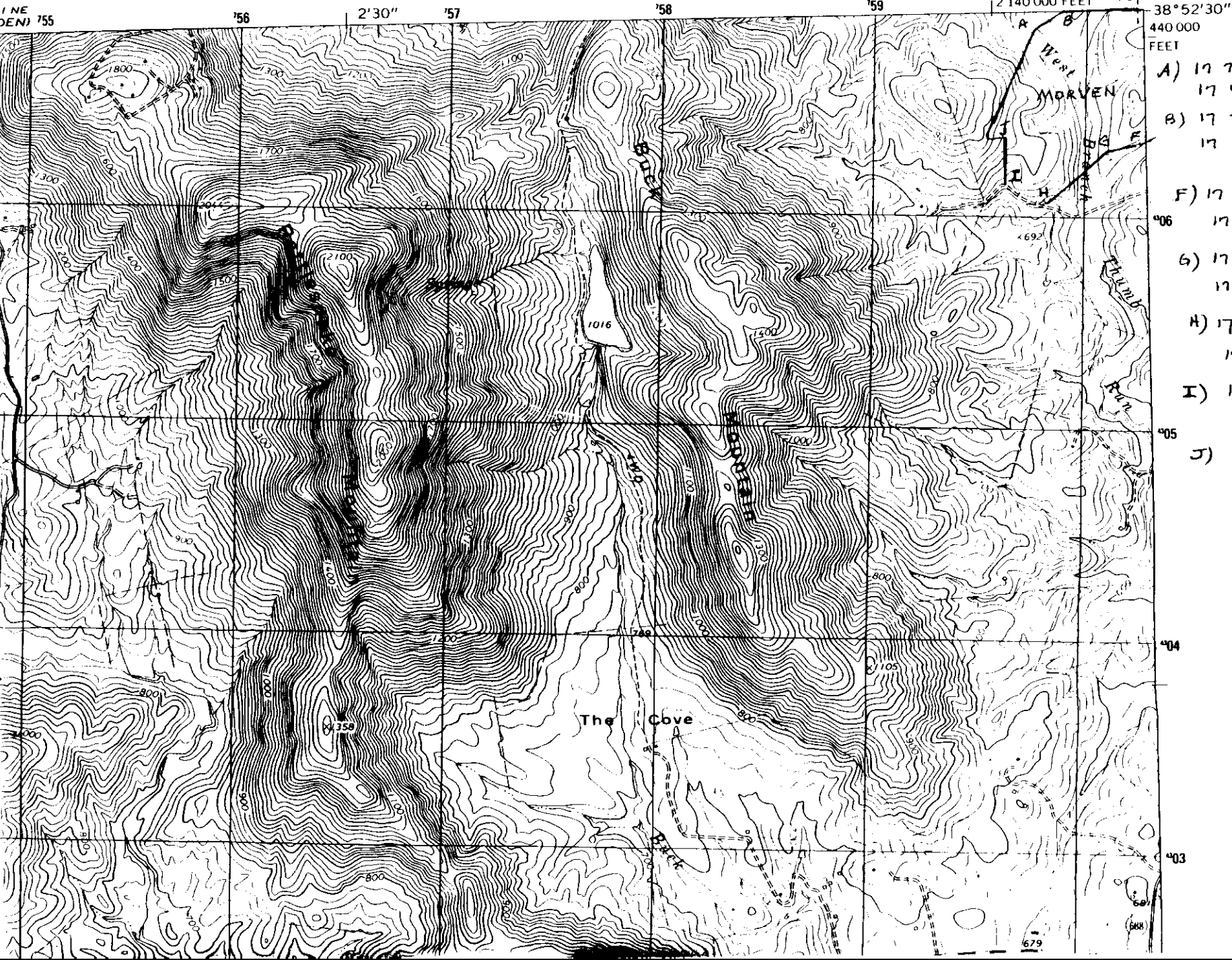
FLINT HILL QUADRANGLE

VIRGINIA

7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

56°14' NW  
(UPPERVILLE)

LINE  
DENI 755



- 38°52'30"  
440,000  
FEET
- A) 17 759,770 E  
17 4306,880 N
- B) 17 759,900 E  
17 4306,980 N
- F) 17 760,290 E  
17 4306,370 N
- G) 17 760,100 E  
17 4306,320 N
- H) 17 759,820 E  
17 4306,080
- I) 17 759,600 E  
17 4306,140
- J) 17 759,530 E  
17 4306,340